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## NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

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PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

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### THE CROSSLEY REFLECTOR.

At the dinner of the Alumni Association of the University of California, given in San Francisco on April 30, 1895, in honor of the Governor of the State and of members of the State Legislature, the following letter was read:

THE LICK OBSERVATORY, }  
MT. HAMILTON, April 25, 1895. }

To the Secretary of the Alumni Association of the University of California:

*My Dear Sir*—I beg to thank you for an invitation to attend the banquet of the Alumni Association of the University of California, at which Governor BUDD and members of the Legislature will be your honored guests.

I should certainly accept your invitation, and do my part in thanking those who have rendered such signal services to the University, if I were not detained here by a very important work now going on, which I ought not to leave for the three days necessary for a journey from Mount Hamilton to San Francisco and return.

The work I refer to consists in preparing a site on Mount Hamilton to receive the great reflecting telescope lately presented to the University by Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, F. R. A. S., of Halifax, Yorkshire, England. As every graduate of the University has a personal interest in this magnificent present, I beg you to allow me a few moments to give certain particulars relating to it.

The original plans on which the LICK Observatory is now

built were made by Professor NEWCOMB and myself in 1874, more than twenty years ago. Mr. LICK had provided that his observatory should possess the most powerful telescope in the world, and the 36-inch refractor, now mounted here, fulfilled this condition. It was proposed to supplement the great refractor by a large reflector. During the years 1874 to 1887, the plan of erecting a large reflector here was constantly kept in mind. It was finally abandoned, because the available funds did not warrant the necessary expense.

Since the Observatory has been part of the University—since June 1, 1888,—the need for such a telescope has been felt, especially during the past two or three years. There are certain spectroscopic and photographic researches in which the reflector has a distinct advantage over the refractor; just as the latter is superior to the former in certain other fields. The two instruments are not rivals, but coadjutors. Each has its province. One is emperor; the other, pope.

Not only was the general question of procuring a reflector kept in view, but particular steps were made in this effort. A certain 3-foot reflector, now happily the property of the University, was made by Mr. A. A. COMMON, F. R. S., in 1879, and used by him with great success. It was subsequently purchased from Mr. COMMON by Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, then Member of Parliament for Halifax, himself an enthusiastic amateur of astronomy. Learning that Mr. CROSSLEY was preparing to dispose of this reflector, I endeavored, some two years ago, to procure the money necessary to buy it for the LICK Observatory. Owing to the depression in business here, it was not then practicable to raise the requisite funds. Mr. CROSSLEY's attention was thus fixed upon the great astronomical advantages of the site at Mount Hamilton, and he at once saw that a telescope placed here would be able to render services to science far greater than those which could be expected in a climate like that of England. The LICK Observatory was also an established part of a great University belonging to a rich State; and it had already shown by its work the mettle of the competent and faithful observers who form its staff. Mr. CROSSLEY was impressed by all the advantages named, and when it was finally proposed to him to give us his great telescope, with its apparatus and dome, outright, he most generously and liberally agreed to do so. Early in April his telegram offer-

ing this gift to the LICK Astronomical Department of the University was received. His letter making the formal proposal is dated April 6th.

In order to accept this gift, it was necessary to raise a sum of money to pay the cost of dismounting the telescope and dome in England, of transporting them to California, and of setting them in place ready for work at Mount Hamilton. The University being short of ready money, it seemed desirable to propose to certain representative citizens of California to subscribe to the desired fund. Accordingly, during the past week the funds necessary to the acceptance of the telescope have been obtained; and, at the meeting of the Regents on April 30th, the generous gift of Mr. CROSSLEY will be definitely accepted. One word as to the contributors to the fund for installing the CROSSLEY Reflector. Every gift to the fund was made not only cheerfully, but with positive pleasure—all were glad to give towards an object so useful and so honorable to the State and to science. Every class of our citizens is represented. We have contributions from Regents of the University, from professors, from the Alumni, from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, from the Society of California Pioneers, and the California Academy of Sciences, from bankers, manufacturers, railway officials, lawyers, men of business, capitalists—both men and women.

The gift of Mr. CROSSLEY is, in the first place, a gift from an individual to the State of California. It has been accepted by representative citizens, and it will be turned over to the care of the Regents for the use of the University. It should be a source of gratification to Californians that Mr. CROSSLEY has chosen to make his gift to a Californian institution. There are many important observatories in England, in India, in the Colonies of Africa and Australia, any one of which would have been delighted to receive Mr. CROSSLEY's magnificent present, and any one of which would have made excellent use of it. Mr. CROSSLEY has chosen out of them all that observatory in which he considered his telescope would be most useful. I wish to point out to you that this gift is a striking evidence that true science is universal, and that the spirit which prompted Mr. CROSSLEY to place his telescope where it can be used to the best advantage, is high-minded and truly scientific in a marked degree.

The work of preparing the site for the new telescope and dome has already begun. In a few weeks the telescope will be

on its way from England. In a few months it will be set up at Mount Hamilton. If all goes well, I hope to see valuable observations made with it during the present season. Promptness in putting Mr. CROSSLEY's gift to use will show how deeply we appreciate his kindness and generosity. The University of Chicago is now setting up its great telescope, which is somewhat larger than the LICK Refractor; but the addition of the CROSSLEY Reflector to our instruments will still keep the LICK Observatory in its position as the most powerfully equipped observatory in the world.

When you are thanking the Governor of California, and the Senators and Representatives of the State, for their care of the best interests of the University—thanks in which I beg to join—do not forget our English friend beyond the seas who has put into our hands a most powerful instrument of research—an instrument which already has an honorable history, to which the astronomers of the LICK Observatory hope to add new and important chapters.

I am, my dear sir,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CROSSLEY REFLECTOR AND DOME BY  
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

At meetings of the Regents of the University held in April, May and June, the following resolutions were adopted:

*Whereas*, Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, F. R. A. S., of Halifax, Yorkshire, England, has offered in his letter of April 6, 1895, to present to the LICK Astronomical Department of the University of California his 3-foot reflecting telescope, with its apparatus and its dome, complete;

*Resolved*, That the Regents of the University of California gratefully accept this splendid addition to the resources of the LICK Observatory, which makes it the best-equipped observatory of the world;

*Resolved*, That the Regents recognize in this gift a striking evidence that true science is universal, and that they cordially appreciate the high-minded and scientific spirit which prompted Mr. CROSSLEY to place his powerful telescope on the site where it can be used to the best advantage of astronomy;